

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

(IN FORMAT COMPLIANT WITH THE REVISED 37 CFR 1.121)

✓ Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice.

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1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A ~~packet~~ An apparatus
comprising:

an interface connectable to a network, said interface
configured to transmit information via a frame in said network,
said frame comprising a plurality of packets, wherein at least one
of said packets has (i) a header section having a plurality of
identification portions, (ii) a header error portion and (iii) a
payload error portion.

2. (CANCELLED)

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~packet apparatus~~ according
to claim 1, wherein said network comprises one of a SONET/SDH
Synchronous Optical Network and a Synchronous Digital Hierarchy
fiber optic network.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~packet apparatus~~ according
to claim 1, wherein (i) said header error portion is configured to
store error check information of a said header section of said

~~packet~~ and (ii) said payload error portion is configured to store
5 error check information of a payload area of said packet, said
error check information being independent of said header section.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~packet~~ apparatus according
to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of nodes coupled to ~~the~~
said network, wherein one or more of said plurality of nodes is an
upstream node configured to transfer said ~~packet~~ frame and one or
more of said plurality of nodes is a downstream node configured to
~~identify a faulty determine that said upstream node of said one or~~
~~more upstream nodes~~ is faulty based on said payload error portion.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~packet~~ apparatus according
to claim 5, wherein said one or more downstream nodes is further
configured to perform a discard of said at least one packet upon
detecting an error.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~packet~~ apparatus according
to claim 5, wherein each of said plurality of nodes is configured
to determine a data error in response to said ~~header~~ payload error
portion of said at least one packet.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~packet~~ apparatus according
to claim 7, wherein said at least one packet further comprising

comprises a first address portion ~~comprising~~ having one or more
layer 2 addresses located before said header error portion and a
5 second address portion comprising one or more layer 3 addresses.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~packet~~ apparatus according
to claim 8, wherein said at least one packet further comprising
comprises a data identifier located before said header error
portion and configured to identify a data type.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~packet~~ apparatus according
to claim 1, wherein said at least one packet further comprising
comprises a data payload.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~packet~~ apparatus according
to claim 1, wherein said at least one packet further comprising
comprises an address portion configured to store one or more
addresses.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~packet~~ apparatus according
to claim 1, wherein said at least one packet further comprising
comprises a control word configured to control said at least one
packet.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~packet~~ apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least one packet further comprising comprises an identity portion configured to identify a destination node.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~packet~~ apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least one packet further comprising comprises a label portion ~~comprising one or more words~~ located before said header error portion.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~packet~~ apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said label portion comprises a MPLS Multi-Protocol Label Switching label portion.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:
one or more nodes coupled to a network, each of said nodes being ~~node~~ configured to receive ~~and/or~~ and transmit one or more of a plurality of packets, each at least one of said packets comprising (i) a first portion configured to store payload error information, (ii) a header length and (iii) a second portion configured to store header error information.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for transmitting a plurality of packets between ~~one~~ two or more nodes, comprising the steps of:

5 (A) ~~receiving~~ adding a header section having a plurality of identification portions and a header error portion to each of said plurality of packets received at ~~each~~ an upstream node of said ~~one or more~~ nodes;

10 (B) adding a payload error portion to each of said packets without said payload error portion received at said upstream node; and

15 ~~(B) (C) transmitting said plurality of packets in a frame to a downstream node at each of said one or more nodes, each packet comprising a first portion configured to store payload error information and a second portion configured to store header error information.~~

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~packet~~ method according to claim ~~±~~ 17, wherein said network comprises a fiber optic network.

5 19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~packet~~ method according to claim ~~±~~ 17, wherein (i) said header error portion is configured to store error check information of ~~a~~ said header section of ~~said packet~~ and (ii) said payload error portion is configured to store error check information of a payload area of said packet.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~packet~~ method according to claim 5 17, wherein said ~~one or more~~ downstream node ~~nodes~~ is further configured to perform ~~a~~ the step of:

discarding at least one discard of said packet packets
upon detecting an error in said at least one packet.

21. (NEW) The method according to claim 17, further comprising the step of:

framing at least one of said packets with a Simple Data Link protocol including a packet length portion and a packet length
error portion.